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# Monthly Newsletter - March 2026

Your source for club events and news

## Coldest Night of the Year Walk

On February 28th, members of the Rotary Club of Ottawa as well as our exchange student and a spouse walked 5 KM in the annual Coldest Night of the Year joining hundreds of others walking through downtown Ottawa in support of the Ottawa Mission. We hit our goal of raising \$1000 for the Mission through generous donations from family and friends of the participants, Rotarians, and a \$260 donation from the Club's Community Service Committee to get us to that \$1000. Thank you to everyone who supported us. The weather was a mild and dry evening and it was a great fellowship and community service event.



## Club Members attend Ottawa 67's Game

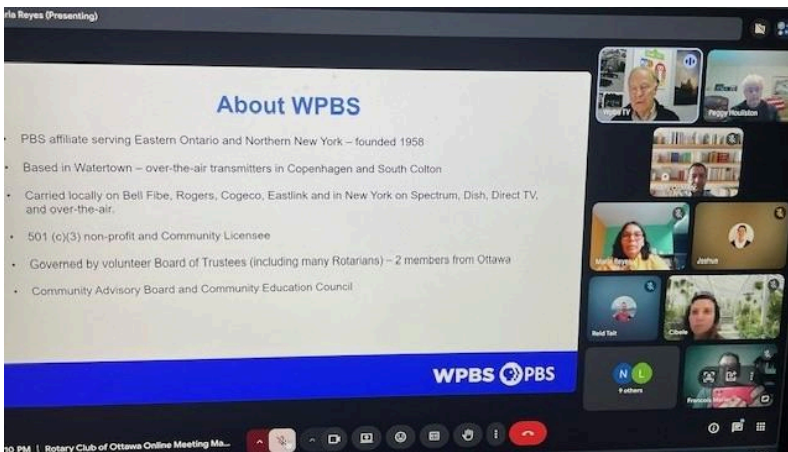


A group of Club Members plus the inbound exchange students from both our Club and the Metro Club went to go see the Ottawa 67's play their last regular season game against the Kingston Frontenacs. The 67's won 6-1 and it was a nice time to spend in fellowship together.

Go 67's as they now go into the OHL playoffs.



## Online Meeting - Presentation by Rotarian and President of WPBS in Watertown NY



On March 23, we had the pleasure of welcoming fellow Rotarian Mark Prasuhn, who is the Managing Director of the [WPBS TV station based in Watertown, NY](#) (part of our Rotary District 7040). Mark provided us with an overview of the station, its work on air, digitally and in the community. WPBS, which airs here in Ottawa, has the highest number of Canadian members and content than any other PBS station. Mark also spoke of the major initiatives recently launched by the station as well as its

funding challenges. Club Members had a chance to ask Mark questions and we thank him for his time and very informative presentation and as a Rotary district that spans Canada and the US, it is important now more than ever for Rotarians on each side of the border to meet and learn from each other.

## Adventure in Citizenship Corner - AIC 2026 has successfully reached its full registration

By Faris Ouattara



The Adventure in Citizenship (AIC) committee is pleased to announce that registration for the 75th edition has reached full capacity with 180 participants signed up.

Event preparations are well underway, with some highlights of this year's program being a welcome by an Indigenous Elder, a new Advocacy through Art session and a Member of Parliament Meet & Greet. For the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are excited to have a video message being provided by the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson,

former Governor General of Canada. Outreach efforts are also underway to secure additional contributions from dignitaries, including Prime Minister Mark Carney.

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

As planning continues, the committee warmly welcomes additional volunteer support from Club Members who are available to assist during the event, May 23-27. If you are interested in volunteering, please complete the [AIC sign-up form](#), which includes three brief questions about your availability and areas of interest. You are sure to be inspired by the amazing youth and your involvement will help ensure the continued success of the Adventure in Citizenship program.

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### Save the Date - Year-End BBQ & Club's 110th Anniversary

We are planning for our year-end BBQ to be on Saturday, June 6th at Vincent Massey Park. This is a special year as our club turns 110 years old on May 1st. Attendance will be free of charge and more details to come soon.

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## Membership Engagement - Fill out the Survey & More

We want to hear from you, and also help you get involved!

- [Club Survey](#) on meeting times and format. Let us know how you like club meetings, and give us your thoughts on some creative ideas.
- Calls - this month we're checking in with members we haven't seen in awhile to get their input.
- Join the Fellowship Committee - we could use 2 new members for next year. We meet once a month online to plan events, and speakers for the meetings. Please email me: [dalybsh@gmail.com](mailto:dalybsh@gmail.com)

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## Meet Your Fellow Club Members

In this monthly feature, we spotlight fellow Club members so you can get to know them.

### Carina Dietze



Carina Dietze is a journalist, writer, and founder of Moondust Magazine, an online publication focused on culture, creativity, and women's perspectives. Based between Ottawa and her hometown of Düsseldorf, she brings an international outlook to her work and interests.

With a background in economics and cultural studies, Carina works across journalism, translation, and copywriting. She regularly writes about topics such as sustainability, renewable energy, and cultural trends, and also supports the operations of Parliament Millwork alongside her husband and fellow Rotarian, Chris McClelland.

Carina is particularly interested in storytelling and in creating space for diverse voices in media. Within the Club, she values connection, exchange, and the opportunity to contribute to a strong and welcoming community.

### Joshua Chmielewski



Joshua has called the National Capital Region home since 2018, when he came to study law at the University of Ottawa. Originally from Fort McMurray, Alberta, Joshua was introduced to Rotary International at 15 years old when he participated in a youth exchange program to Czestochowa, Poland. This incredible experience allowed Joshua to meet other youth from all corners of the world, develop lasting relationships with fellow exchange students and host families, and create lasting memories. Joshua joined the Ottawa Rotary Club in June 2025, to continue creating meaningful connections through the power of Rotary and give back to the Ottawa community. When not working at his law practice, Joshua can be found hiking in the Gatineau Park, in his garden, or visiting with friends and neighbours.



*District Conference 2026 Conférence de district  
24-26 April/avril 2026  
Kingston, Ontario*

**LAST CHANCE** to register for the next District Conference. It promises to be a very informative conference and members are encouraged to attend.

[Welcome / Bienvenue | District 7040](#)

[Rotary Club of Ottawa Website](#)

### News from around Rotary International



[Rotary Peace Fellow employs AI for a better world | Rotary International](#)

[Sibongile Mlambo's roots in Africa inspire connection with Rotary |](#)

[Rotary International](#)

['Success is collective,' says recipient of Rotary's 2026 Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award | Rotary International](#)

### Club Events for April

#### April 13: In-Person Club Meeting

12:00-1:00pm at Jack Purcell Community Centre with Brenda Hollingsworth of the Ontario Bar Association

#### April 23: Thirsty Thursday & Bowling

We are going bowling at West Park Bowl at 7:00pm. Confirm with Sherri if you plan to attend.



#### April 27: Online Club Meeting

7:00-8:00pm we will hear from our inbound exchange student Bente about her experience in Canada and her home back in Norway.

### Club Executive Meeting Update

The Club's Executive Board met on March 12 and discussed the following items:

- Adventure in Citizenship Update
- Membership engagement - calls and survey
- Peace projects proposal
- Committee updates

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